

along with the soluble stir stick.

Summary of Invention

[0006] A soluble stir stick composed of an edible material that is soluble in a beverage. The soluble stir stick is especially useful with hot beverages such as coffee or tea. The consumer stirs their hot beverage with the soluble stir stick and the soluble stir stick dissolves into the beverage, resulting in no waste. The soluble stir stick can be a solid stick made from one main soluble material. The soluble stir stick can be flavored or unflavored. For example, such flavorings could be chocolate or vanilla. The main soluble material of the soluble stir stick can also encapsulate columns of additives for the beverage.

Brief Description of Drawings

- [0007] Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a soluble stir stick according to the present invention;
- [0008] Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a soluble stir stick with two additives according to the present invention;
- [0009] Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the soluble stir stick of Fig. 1 according to the present invention; and
- [0010] Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the soluble stir stick with more than two additives according to the present invention.

Detailed Description

[0011] The present invention is a soluble stir stick composed of an edible material that is soluble in a fluid. The soluble stir stick is especially useful with hot beverages such as coffee or tea. The consumer stirs their hot beverage with the soluble stir stick and the soluble stir stick dissolves into the beverage, resulting in no waste.

[0012] Figs. 1–4 show the soluble stir stick 10. Fig. 1 shows the soluble stir stick 10 as a solid stick made from one main soluble material 12. As is the case with all of the soluble stir stick 10s shown, the main soluble material 12 can be flavored or unflavored. For example, such flavorings could be chocolate or vanilla. Figs. 2–4 show

the main soluble material 12 of the soluble stir stick 10 encapsulating columns of additives for the beverage. Fig. 2 shows the soluble stir stick 10 with a first column of additive 14 and a second column of additive 16 encapsulated by the main soluble material 12. Fig. 3 shows a cross-section of the soluble stir stick 10 shown in Fig. 2. Fig. 4 shows the soluble stir stick 10 with a first column of additive 15, a second column of additive 16, a third column of additive 18 and a fourth column of additive 20 encapsulated by the main soluble material 12.

[0013] The columns of additives could be for example, sugar, sweetener, whitener or a combination thereof. The consumer who desires cream and sugar in their beverage, would simply select a soluble stir stick containing these columns of additives in the interior of the soluble stir stick. By stirring in a hot beverage, the soluble stir stick dissolves along with the additives, which are dispersed into the beverage. This is more convenient than the traditional methods and avoids the waste of the sugar or whitener containers. Furthermore, if the consumer desired a smaller portion of whitener or sugar, one could break off half of the soluble stir stick, reducing its concentration of whitener or sugar. Alternatively, the consumer could stir the hot beverage with the soluble stick, until only the bottom half is dissolved, then save or discard the top half, reducing the concentration once again. If the upper half is disposed, it is a biodegradable material versus the plastics of cream containers and current stir sticks. Therefore, the soluble stir stick reduces many of the wastes associated with additives and current stir sticks used in office coffee rooms and kitchens.

[0014] While different embodiments of the invention have been described in detail herein, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that various modifications and alternatives to the embodiments could be developed in light of the overall teachings of the disclosure. Accordingly, the particular arrangements are illustrative only and are not limiting as to the scope of the invention that is to be given the full breadth of any and all equivalents thereof.